

Running the River Thames

A Greenwich Maritime Institute research project funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Research Team: Dr Vanessa Taylor and Professor Sarah Palmer

Welcome to the second newsletter on *Running the River Thames: London, Stakeholders and the Environmental Governance of the River Thames, 1960 – 2010*.

Archival Research

We have been exploring a number of different aspects. These include alterations in the governance of port and river; the shift from metropolitan institutions to river-basin level management; transfers in responsibility for pollution control, sewerage and water supply; environmental issues in the lower Thames; the role of stakeholders and interest groups with competing visions of the river's role.

Vanessa has largely completed the research in the London Metropolitan Archives relating to the LCC and GLC, and has also worked on a substantial section of material in the Port of London Authority archive. Sarah has so far focussed on government records for the 1960s/70s in the National Archives.



Lectures and Presentations, March – November 2012

Vanessa Taylor

- 'Whose river? London and the Governance of the Thames, 1965-1986', *The Living and Liveable City: Health, Lifestyle and Sustainability*, Urban History Group Conference, St Catherine's College, Oxford, March 2012.
- Poster Presentation (Running the River Thames) at The Hothouse, 'River Thames: Jobs & Climate' and Book Signing for Paul Tempest and Peter Kent, Greenwich and the London River, 2012. At 'Made in Greenwich', Creek Road, London SE10, July 2012.
- 'Cohesion and Fragmentation: Governance and the River Thames, 1860-1973', *Communities, Cohesion and Social Stability Conference*, Bangor University, September 2012.

Sarah Palmer

- 'The Old and New Life of the London Thames' in the *Royal River Lecture Series*, National Maritime Museum, June 2012.

Sarah Palmer and Vanessa Taylor,

- 'The Running the River Thames Project', *Docklands History Group*, Museum of London Docklands, November 2012.



Other Past Activities

The Project Advisory Committee met with the team in February and October. Vanessa has attended several events relating to the Thames. These included : Thames Water ' Why London's River needs the Thames Tunnel', the Environment Agency, Thames River Basin Liaison Panel, as also the Thames Estuary Partnership Annual Forum, 'LIFE: Landscape, Industry & Infrastructure, Flood Protection, Environment'. Sarah attended the Thames Estuary Partnership, Summer Special Friends Event.

Stakeholder Workshops

'A Conversation about Stakeholder Engagement' with invited representatives of a small number of major Thames region governance organisations, the second stakeholder event, took place in November 2012. The report of the first stakeholder workshop (November 2011) is available on:

http://www2.gre.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/687016/GMI-Stakeholder-Workshop-Report-v6.pdf

Project Final Conference, Greenwich, 11 July 2013

'Running The River Thames: How the Past informs the Present' will examine river environmental governance and participation, especially, but not only, in relation to the Thames.

Other Forthcoming Events, December 2012 – July 2013

- **12 December 2012**, Sarah Palmer and Vanessa Taylor, 'The Running the River Thames Research Project' *Public History Seminar Series*, University of Greenwich .

- **17 January – 21 March, 18 April – 19 May**. Fourteen-week Short Course 'Environmental History and the Sea: The British Isles 1800-2013'

Vanessa Taylor's new course, which includes a tidal Thames case study, will enable students to develop a critical understanding of key concepts in this field and a knowledge of the main developments in British marine and coastal governance since 1800. They will examine marine and coastal policies affecting the British Isles before the age of 'environmentalism' and in the context of the international environmental policy frameworks of recent decades.

http://www2.gre.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/731317/Environmental-History-and-The-Sea.pdf

- **7 February 2013**, Sarah Palmer, 'Running the River Thames: Interests and Conflicts in the Later 20th Century', *British Commission for Maritime History Seminar Series*, King's College London.

- **21 February 2013**, Vanessa Taylor, 'Watershed Democracy or Ecological Hinterland? London and the Thames River Basin, 1960-89', *Rivers, Cities, Historical Interactions Conference*, Rachel Carson Center, Munich.

- **24 April 2013**, Vanessa Taylor and Sarah Palmer, 'Running the River: Researching the Recent Environmental History of the Thames', *Greenwich Maritime Institute Public Seminar Series*, University of Greenwich.

Our Contact Details:

Dr Vanessa Taylor
Greenwich Maritime Institute,
University of Greenwich
Queen Anne Court, Old Royal Naval College
Park Row, London SE10 9LS

☎ 020 8331
7688

✉ runningtheriverthames@greenwich.ac.uk

🐦 @ThamesGov

See also: <http://www2.gre.ac.uk/about/schools/gmi/research/case-studies/running-the-river-thames>